



australia

64 M WYUNA SEEKS CLASSIC REFIT OWNER

Like the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, the 64 m former Port Phillip pilot vessel and Australian Maritime College training ship *Wyuna* was built in Glasgow in 1952. Although smaller than *Britannia*, she has remarkably similar lines and styling, prompting Tony Hashfield of Sanctuary Cove-based SuperYacht Technologies, agent for the current owner, to describe her as a near sister ship. Already serious suitors are discussing his plan to restore *Wyuna* as a classic-style superyacht. "Vessels like this stand out," he says. "They are individual and distinct. When a classic yacht enters port, people stop to take in the sight. Modern superyachts don't command the same attention."

The sort of vessel that *Wyuna* may become is shown in this graphic, which envisages her as a latter-day, more-affordable-to-run *Britannia*. The Royal Yacht was simply too big, and needed too many crew to look after anything from deck duties to security for the glittering gold and bejeweled gifts from other kings, queens and heads of state, which were kept in showcases in the yacht's formal dining room. With these treasures removed, she is now a museum ship in Edinburgh.



Hashfield estimates that a proper refit will cost about US\$30 million, but says *Wyuna* could then resell at US\$40-50 million in the world market. Original engines will have to be replaced, and the plans call for an extensive owner's suite, swimming pool and gym. Surveys have concluded that the hull and other mechanical parts are in good condition, so it is projected that a really good restoration would extend *Wyuna's* life by another 50 years. Readers not in Melbourne or Launceston, where the Australian Maritime College is located, may have seen *Wyuna* in Sydney, acting as a Sydney-Hobart Race radio relay ship, or during the bicentennial, and she was in Perth and Fremantle for Australia's 1987-88 America's Cup defence.

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